

arrival. If the ring is lost the supply of napkins ceases.

Rule 8. One round only of each course will be served. If extra portions are desired, double prices will be charged.

Rule 9. If you have any kicks on the street-car service, do not blame the landlady, but the superintendent of the street-car system, or else tell your troubles to the policeman on the beat. His number will be furnished without charge.

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Preston Gibson, a wealthy young Chicagoan, is the latest aspirant to fame as a stage writer. A few nights ago his first play, "Mrs. Erskine's Devotion," was presented in Milwaukee, and great has been the pother about Mr. Gibson's "ripe talent" in the Windy City. The play was started on its doubtful way to the accompaniment of applause from leaders of society in Chicago and Milwaukee. Mr. Gibson is a popular youth in these cities, and he introduced a novelty that may yet take the place of the inane speeches attending the majority of opening nights in Broadway. Irrespective of the fate of the play Mr. Gibson planned a banquet in honor of fifty friends, who, after becoming weary in hand-clapping in the Davidson theater, gathered around the festive board in Pfister House. Small wonder that the host returned to Chicago firm in the resolve to devote himself to the writing of plays. A speech by the author was a feature of the banquet, and under the stimulus of a sympathetic uproar he revealed his plans in the following story: "I fear my frame of mind regarding playwriting is like that of the negro who, when questioned by a white man as to whether he could remember Henry Clay, replied: 'Yes, suh,' whereupon the white man asked: 'Well, do you remember as far back as George Washington when he crossed the Delaware?' 'Yes, suh, 'cause I was in dat boat.' 'Do you remember George Washington when he took a hack at the cherry tree?' 'Yes, suh, 'cause I drove that hack.'" Mr. Gibson will take another "hack" at dramatic work. His ambition is as long as the negro's memory, and what matters it if he is dusted off old ideas in "Mrs. Erskine's Devotion?"

#### FREE LESSONS IN JOURNALISM.

William F. Kirk, of the Milwaukee Sentinel, has started in his humorous department in that paper a school of journalism. The following are samples, the first being devoted to the city editor and the second to the society editor:

Here we have the City Ed. What is he doing? He is attaching a tin cylinder to the man who tried to do Police. Does the man like this? No. He had intended to climb to the topmost Rung of Journalism. Who pushed him off? The City Ed. pushed him off.

What else does the City Ed. do? He takes a nice blue pencil and scratches out the graphic lines about the "all-devouring flames that writhed like Serpents." Then the story says that the house burned down at eight o'clock last night. Then it is a nice story, is it not?

Can the City Ed. write? Oh, yes. When the new Reporter turns in a column story about a Runaway the City Ed. writes him a note. Is it a nice note? No, it is not a nice note.

The City Ed. is a brave man. When the ladies of the church come to see him about the story that the Reporter got all wrong he faces them boldly. It is not easy to face these ladies boldly, but he knows no fear. When the local Poetess gets into the wrong pew and submits a poem on Eternity, he reads it and says: "This is very good, but the Democratic Convention is taking up all our Space."

The City Ed. swears and smokes all the time. Is he not wicked, children? When you grow up never be a City Ed.

Here we have the Society Editor. What is she doing? She is writing about the dainty luncheon at the Country Club. She also has an exclusive story about the Misses Excelsior of 'Frisco spending a few weeks with their cousins at Prospect. At the swell dinner in their honor Covers were laid for Twenty-four.

Does the Society Editor have to go after stories? Not at all—the stories are sent in by the anxious principals. Isn't this too much trouble for the principals? Oh, no—delighted, I assure you!

Are you in Society? Then come and meet the Society Editor. She will be glad to fix you out if you send in your MSS., written on one side of the paper, and be careful about Spelling and Punctuation.

Why is the Society Editor laughing? She is laughing at the lady who sent in six items about herself. She knows this lady will say next day, "My goodness, you just can't keep anything out of the Papers nowadays!" Society people are Queer Things, and the Society Editor is onto all their Curves. Yes, indeed. Let us run along now, and not bother her any more until she has finished reading her mail.

"Military discipline," said General Nelson A. Miles, "can hardly be carried too far. Sometimes, though, we hear of orders that would have been more honored in the breach than the observance."

"Thus, there was a certain colonel who, in the middle of a campaign, was seized with a sudden ardor about hygiene. He ordered that all his men change their shirts at once."

"This order was duly carried out except in the case of one company where the privates' wardrobes had been pitifully depleted. The captain of this company was informed that none of his men could change their shirts, since they had only one apiece. The captain hesitated a moment and said firmly:

"Orders must be obeyed. Let the men change shirts with each other."

Mr. Swagger—I don't think your medicine will agree with my wife, doctor."

"I shall be surprised if it doesn't."

"Not half so surprised as I shall be if it does. Nothing that is not superhuman can agree with my wife."—Town Talk.

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